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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1941.

By R. DE VEIL KING,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.**

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1941.

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1941.

Area (in Acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population	8,115
Census Population, 1931	7,132
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books, Dec. 31st, 1941	2,117
Rateable Value—31st Dec., 1941	£37,822
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st Dec., 1941	£151 ls. 10d

Extracts from the Vital Statistics.

Live Births:—	Total	M.	F.	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —11.95
Legitimate	94	52	42	
Illegitimate ...	3	1	2	
	—	—	—	
	97	53	44	

Still Births—Total .. 7

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 67.3

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population .. 0.86

Deaths—Total .. 101

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population .. 12.4

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Births.</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes ..	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—Total .. 7

Legitimate—7. Illegitimate—Nil.

Death rate of all Infants per 1,000 Live Births—55.5.

(NOTE—To calculate the Infant Mortality Rate, the Registrar-General gives the figure of 126 as the number of Live Births during the year.)

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
Measles (all ages)	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	1

Rates for England & Wales a whole, per 1,000 Civilian Population:

Live Births	14.2	„	„	„
Still Births	0.51	„	„	„
Deaths, all causes	12.9	„	„	„
Maternal Mortality, all causes 2.23 per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)				
Infant Mortality	59.0	„	„	„

Causes of Death during 1941.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	4	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	2	—	2
Measles	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis..	1	—	1
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	1	2	3
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Cancer of breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	3	5	8
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	2	6	8
Heart Disease	4	12	16
Other Disease of the Circulatory System ..	2	5	7
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Disease	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Disease	2	1	3
Nephritis	1	2	3
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	1	1	2
Congenital Malformation, Birth injuries, etc.	2	—	2
Suicide	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
Other violent causes	1	—	1
All other causes	2	11	13
All causes—Total	41	60	101

Infant Mortality During 1941.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Inanition	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Gastræ-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	2	—	1	—	3	2	1	—	1	7

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There is no change from the facilities described in the Report for 1938. The Sick Bay at "Avondale" continues to do work of the greatest importance for the treatment principally of Scabies and other Verminous conditions. A useful addition to the work is the treatment of some of the cases as out-patients, the beds being reserved for the worst cases.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Circular 2604 from the Ministry of Health forbids the publication of activities in connection with war-time extensions of water supplies, sewerage works or other public utility undertakings.

Housing.

During the year there was some overcrowding owing to self-evacuated persons from bombed areas getting accommodation in the district, but the position was greatly relieved by the end of the year because many of these persons and official evacuees had returned to their homes. There is still a shortage of houses to meet the general needs of the district and to meet this, 27 houses in Confirmed Clearance Areas and 9 Flats (all in one house) were allowed to be reoccupied as a war emergency measure.

Under the Government Evacuation Scheme the total number of persons billeted in the district was 803 against 1548 at the end of 1940.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is as follows:—

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	97
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	16
Bakehouses	12
Disinfections and investigations in relation to Infectious Diseases	77

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	42
Statutory Notices	—
<i>Results of Notices served:—</i>	
Total Notices complied with	37
Notices standing over from 1941	5

Conditions Remedied:—

Defective Drainage	27
Defective Sanitary Fittings	37
Disinfections	77
Dampness abated	9
Provision of New Water Closets	5
Miscellaneous	19

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The inspection of Farms and Dairies, and the taking of samples of milk in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938, were continued during the year. Eleven samples of milk were taken, four of which were found to be unsatisfactory, viz.: Pasteurised 2, Accredited 1, and examined for tubercle bacilli 1.

Two licences have been issued by the Council to produce and sell Pasteurised Milk, and one Supplementary Licence to sell Accredited Milk in the district.

No Cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

The number of Milk Producers on the Register is 16, the number of Distributors only 9, and the number of distributors who are also producers 5. The number of producers of milk has fallen since the end of 1940, when there were 25.

MEAT SUPPLY.—All meat for the district is slaughtered and inspected in Taunton Rural District as a war measure.

BAKEHOUSES.—Twelve inspections were made to the four Bakehouses in the district. They are in a satisfactory condition.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The following gives the number of notifications for notifiable infectious diseases during the year. Measles was very prevalent during the year, but it seems that not all cases which occurred have been notified in accordance with the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939, so that a true picture of its prevalence cannot be given. Scarlet Fever was another very prevalent disease.

	<i>Number of Notifications.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population Wellington U.D. E. & W</i>	
Scarlet Fever	74	9.11	1.47
Diphtheria	1	0.12	1.25
Whooping Cough	9	1.10	4.39
Measles	61	7.51	10.33
Pneumonia	5	0.61	1.25
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	9	*86.54	*11.91
Erysipelas	1	0.12	0.30
Paratyphoid "B"	1	0.12	0.09
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	0.24	0.25

* Puerperal Pyrexia notifications are calculated on the basis of 9 per 1,000 total Births.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and number of deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following table:—

<i>Age Periods.</i>	<i>NEW CASES.</i>				<i>DEATHS.</i>			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	5	7	1	—	1	4	—	—

